

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to organize a trip, comprising:

at a travel service site, establishing a homepage for ~~the~~ a trip;

sending an electronic notification to potential trip participants from the travel service site for informing them of the existence of the trip homepage; and

making at least travel arrangements related to the trip by using tools provided to the potential trip participants at the trip homepage, where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on at least one matter related to the travel arrangements.

2. Cancelled.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 1, where sending an electronic notification ~~emailing~~ includes sending a link to the homepage.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging payment for the trip.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging accommodations during the trip.

6. (Original) A method as in claim 1, where the travel arrangements comprise determining which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip.

7. (Currently Amended) A method to provide a group travel service over the Internet, comprising:

at a travel service site, ~~in response to a group trip leader~~ establishing a homepage for a group trip by a group trip leader, the group trip leader identifying at least email addresses of potential group trip participants,

automatically contacting the potential group trip participants from the travel service site for providing them with a link to the group trip homepage; and

making travel arrangements related to the group trip by using tools provided to the potential trip participants at the group trip homepage, where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on at least one matter related to the travel arrangements.

8. Cancelled.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 7, where the travel arrangements comprise arranging payment for the trip.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 7; where the travel arrangements comprise arranging accommodations during the trip.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 7, where the travel arrangements comprise determining which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 7, further comprising enabling a member of the public to learn of the existence of the group trip, and join the group trip as a group trip participant.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 7, further comprising establishing a travel log album for the trip ~~at the travel service site~~, and giving group trip participants access to the travel

log album.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 7, further comprising establishing a travel log album for the trip ~~at the travel service site~~, and giving both group trip participants and members of the public access to the travel log album.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 14, where at least group trip participants are enabled to upload photographs to the travel log album, and where group trip participants and members of the public are enabled to download photographs from the travel log album.

16. (Currently Amended) A system operable to provide a group travel service over the Internet, comprising a server executing software for implementing the group travel service, said server being bidirectionally coupled to the Internet and configured to respond ~~responsive~~ to a group trip leader identifying contact information for potential group trip participants ~~for to~~ automatically ~~contacting~~ contact the potential group trip participants for providing them with a link to a group trip homepage, said server being further configured to respond ~~responsive~~ to potential group trip participants accessing the group trip homepage ~~for making to make~~ travel arrangements related to the group trip by using tools provided to the potential trip participants at the group trip homepage, said travel arrangements comprising at least one of arranging payment for the trip and arranging accommodations during the trip, where one of said tools enables trip participants to vote on at least one matter related to the travel arrangements.

17. (Original) A system as in claim 16, where said travel arrangements further comprise determining which trip participants will share lodging accommodations during the trip.

18. Cancelled.

19. (Original) A system as in claim 16, said server further establishing a travel service homepage for enabling a member of the public to learn of the existence of the group trip, and to join the group trip as a group trip participant using at least the group trip homepage.

20. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 16, further comprising establishing a travel log album for the trip ~~at the travel service site~~, and providing both group trip participants and members of the public access to the travel log album, where at least group trip participants are enabled to upload photographs to the travel log album, and where group trip participants and members of the public are enabled to download photographs from the travel log album.

21. (New) A system as in claim 16, where said tool that enables trip participants to vote allows group trip participants to vote on whether to allow a proposed group trip participant to join the group.

22. (New) A system as in claim 16, where the group trip leader determines at least one of a duration of a particular voting-related ballot, a subject of a voting-related ballot, and whether a simple majority is sufficient to win a ballot, and where a vote cast by a group trip participant is selectively one of kept secret or made public.

23. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling group trip participants to post messages to a group message board.

24. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling tracking of group trip participants with respect to at least one or more of participation response, payment status, flight itinerary and number, seat assignment, hotel accommodation and room assignment.

25. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling tracking of a group trip participant's personal itinerary, where access to the group trip participant's personal itinerary is granted only to that group trip participant.

26. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling a group trip participant to establish a public profile that is viewable by other group trip participants.

27. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling at least the group trip leader to post at least one of documents and hyperlinks related to the trip.

28. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling group trip participants to determine those group trip participants that will share a hotel room, said room sharing tool creating lists organized by room and enabling group trip participants to select at least one roommate by entering their name in one of the lists.

29. (New) A system as in claim 16, further comprising a tool enabling a group trip participant to invite another group trip participant to share a hotel room, where the invited group trip participant is enabled to accept or reject the invitation.

30. (New) A system operable to provide a group travel service over the Internet, comprising a server executing software for implementing the group travel service, said server being bidirectionally coupled to the Internet and configured to contact potential group trip participants to provide a link to a group trip homepage, said server being further configured to provide at least one tool at the group trip homepage to respond to potential group trip participants accessing the group trip homepage to become group trip participants, further comprising a tool configured to at least track responses of individual group trip participants including mode of travel related information and hotel accommodation related information enabling a plurality of group trip participants to coordinate the booking of flights, seating and hotel rooms.

31. (New) A system as in claim 30, where another tool enables group trip participants to vote on at least one matter related to travel arrangements.

32. (New) A system as in claim 30, where said group trip homepage is initially established by a group trip leader using at least one other tool provided by said server for customizing a homepage provided by the server, and where the group trip leader provides electronic mail contact information for the potential group trip participants to enable them to be contacted.

S.N.: 10/759,331
Art Unit: 3628

33. (New) A system as in claim 30, where another tool enables a group trip participant to establish a public profile that is viewable by other group trip participants.